

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2618

By Mr. Pedone of Worcester, petition of Vincent A. Pedone and John W. Scibak for legislation to further regulate the use of latex gloves in health care facilities. Public Health.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO NATURAL RUBBER LATEX GLOVE SAFETY AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of General Laws is hereby amended
- 2 by inserting after section 217 the following new section:—
- 3 Section 218. Natural Rubber Latex Glove Safety
- 4 (a) Any health care facility regulated by the Commonwealth of
- 5 Massachusetts which uses natural rubber latex gloves shall post a
- 6 notice informing employees and the public:
- 7 (1) that natural rubber latex gloves are used by said regulatory
- 8 entity;
- 9 (2) that those who have natural rubber allergy should avoid
- 10 exposure to natural rubber products;
- 11 (3) that allergic reactions to natural rubber can manifest by skin
- 12 rash, hives, nasal and eye irritation, asthma, and shock; and
- 13 (4) that should you or your family experience allergic reaction
- 14 symptoms, then you should contact your health care provider.
- 15 (b) Said notice shall include letters which are at least three-
- 16 eighths (3/8) of an inch high and be posted in conspicuous areas
- 17 throughout the facility.
- 18 (c) Said notice shall be posted in English, Spanish and other
- 19 languages served by the health care facility.
- 20 (d) Health care workers shall be provided with initial and peri-
- 21 odic education pertaining to natural rubber latex safety.
- 22 (e) Health care facilities shall ensure that direct care workers
- 23 are represented on natural rubber latex allergy or safety commis-
- 24 sions.

25 (f) It shall be the duty of the commissioner of the Department  
26 of Public Health to enforce the provisions of this chapter and to  
27 prosecute all persons who violate this chapter. In all such  
28 enforcements and prosecutions, the director shall not be required  
29 to enter into any recognizance or give surety for costs.

30 (g) Any facility which violates any of the provisions of this  
31 chapter shall be subject to a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500),  
32 and may be subject to any and all penalties provided for in general  
33 laws which regulate said industry, including revocation of license.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.